

APR 26 2005

**OFFICIAL**

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Date: APRIL 26, 2005

To: EXAMINER SHEFALI D. PATEL  
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Fax #: (703) 872-9306

From: FRANK C. NICHOLAS  
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Client/Matter No.: PHF 99,548 (7790/275)

# of Pages: 11  
(including cover sheet)

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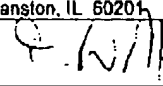
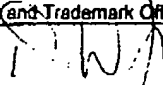
PT/6A/2/1 (1-1-87): Approved for use through 10/01/00. (AAS 08/1-03/1) Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Under the Patent Reduction Act of 1992, no process are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Attorney Docket No.	PHF 99,548 (7790/275)
	Application Number	09/587,394
	Filing Date	JUNE 5, 2000
	First Named Inventor	RAOUL FLORENT
	Group Art Unit	2621
	Examiner	PATEL, SHEFALI D.

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Response to a Non-Final Office Action Dated January 28, 2005</b> <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Petition for Extension of Time Request (dupl.) <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449, art. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawings: <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Petition Routing Slip (PTO/SB/69) and Accompanying Petition <input type="checkbox"/> To Convert a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Request of Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Post Card Receipt <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below): <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1713. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I hereby petition under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) for any extension of time required to ensure that this paper is timely filed. Please charge any associated fees which have not otherwise been paid to Deposit Account No. 50-1713. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.		

## CALCULATION OF FEE

				Small Entity		Large Entity		
	Claims After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Add'l Fee	Rate	Add'l Fee
Total		Minus		0	x \$25=	0	x \$50=	
Indep.		Minus		0	x \$100	0	x \$200	
First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim					+ \$180	--	+ \$360=	
					total add'l fee	\$ 0	total add'l fee	\$

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm or Individual name	DARRIN WESLEY HARRIS Registration No. 40,636 CARDINAL LAW GROUP 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 2000 Evanston, IL 60201		
Signature			Date April 26, 2005
CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to (703) 872-9306 to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on this date: April 26, 2005			
Signature			Date: April 26, 2005
DARRIN WESLEY HARRIS (40,636)			

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DARRIN WESLEY HARRIS (40,636)  
Name of applicant, assignee or registered representative

DWH  
Signature

April 26, 2005  
Date of Signature

PATENT  
Case No. PHF 99,548  
(7790/275)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:	)	
	)	
RAOUL FLORENT	)	
	)	Examiner: PATEL, SHEFALI d
Serial No.: 09/587,394	)	
	)	Group Art Unit: 2621
Filed: JUNE 5, 2000	)	
	)	
For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD	)	
AND SYSTEM, AND MEDICAL	)	
EXAMINATION APPARATUS,	)	
FOR EXTRACTING A PATH	)	
FOLLOWING A THREADLIKE	)	
STRUCTURE IN AN IMAGE	)	

**RESPONSE TO A NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION****DATED JANUARY 26, 2005**

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to a Non-Final Office Action dated January 26, 2005, please  
reconsider the application in light of the following remarks.